

~~TOP SECRET TDRINE~~

41-9

Approved For Release 2001/03/03 : CIA-RDP78S02149R000200080018-2

Background on the Data Base for
Estimating Casualties

Our casualty estimates result from intensive efforts to exploit the many sources of intelligence data. Since many of these sources provide uneven and sometimes conflicting coverage, we have taken unusual care to countercheck each source against all others. The major components of this data base and its exploitation are as follows:

25X1D



Propaganda Claims

We have examined some 38 Vietnamese propaganda claims in 1965 and 1966. Eighteen of 23 claims evaluated in 1965 were done with extensive photo-interpretation. Most of the 15 claims examined in 1966 were analyzed on the basis of DIA post-strike photography estimates [REDACTED] and collateral information.

25X1D

25X1D

Photography

81
40
121

We have examined the results of photointerpretation studies and casualty estimates made by DIA analysts for 81 JCS designated targets and 40 targets not on the JCS list. These estimates and the methodologies involved were discussed at length. We have, when possible, subjected each DIA estimate to our holdings [REDACTED] POW reports and other sources. My best guess is that this procedure has enabled us to refine at least one-third of the DIA studies.

In addition, CIA in 1965 analyzed through photography 18 of 23 specific North Vietnamese propaganda claims of civilian casualties. CIA also completed in 1965 detailed photographic studies of 10 representative areas -- 7 urban and 3 rural -- in order to obtain factors to be used in developing reasonable methodology for estimating casualties.

Approved For Release 2001/03/03 : CIA-RDP78S02149R000200080018-2

~~TOP SECRET TDRINE~~

Interrogation Reports

Although a large volume of interrogation reports was screened, only 31 provided meaningful information on casualties.

25X1C



TOP SECRET

25X1A

Return To
[redacted]

CIA

HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS

WARNING

This document contains classified information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, US Code, Title 18, Sections 793, 794, and 798. The law prohibits its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person, as well as its use in any manner prejudicial to the safety or interest of the United States or for the benefit of any foreign government to the detriment of the United States.

THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE KEPT IN COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS AT ALL TIMES

It is to be seen only by US personnel especially indoctrinated and authorized to receive COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE information; its security must be maintained in accordance with COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE REGULATIONS.

No action is to be taken on any COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE which may be contained herein, regardless of the advantages to be gained, unless such action is first approved by the Director of Central Intelligence.

GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

TOP SECRET